

Of Stories Told

Ralph Hultgren

Commissioned by Education Queensland, through the work of Ken Hodgkinson and Mike Tyler, for the Maryborough Music Conference, July 2007.

Premiered by the Instrumental Music Teachers Symphonic Wind Ensemble, conducted by Rob McWilliams

Of Stories Told – Music Conference 2007, Maryborough

Program note:

Written at the request of Ken Hodgkinson and Mike Tyler this new work for symphonic band (including recorder, violin and voices) is written to depict the joy and celebration of music making.

It also has reflections on the home of the largest music conference in Australia – Maryborough. It suggests the indigenous history, the river that beautifies the area, the immigrant cultural contributions and the joy and celebration of community.

That joy and celebration is reflective of the people of the town and also of the music conference where teachers from throughout Queensland and Australia gather to share, to learn and to make music. It is music of the past, the present and the future – it is music of stories told and stories yet unwritten.

It is an honour to write for my colleagues and their students and for the people of Maryborough. It is a joy to share my music and to have it so enthusiastically and wonderfully played.

Notes for the conductor – From the original notes to the conductor who premiered this piece:

The concept of the work is that of a folk “Celtic” type ensemble (violin, whistle or recorder and voices plus the tambour in the percussion) joined with the wind ensemble. This reflects across the whole of the migrant history of the area of Maryborough and though the ‘river’ theme (the slow section to open) has suggestions of folk song it is meant to also allow the indigenous sounds effects (rain sticks and clack sticks) to come through. The white settlers murdered many local aborigines you know!

I have used a folk, jig feel and I allude to Lilli burlero, a tune from the British army which was also a significant protest song.

At the end of the work the use of antiphonal brass could be employed. You can see where it is marked. Given the Con Brass Band will be there it may be they fit nicely there. Given that class room teachers are there and Bruce Pearson launches his recorder method I thought the use of voices and recorder might be an embracing thing. I even use chimes in that last brass chorus just like the bells of Maryborough.

I have attempted to write a work that could be played by high school groups and that would be something which had an appeal to the audience. It is work thus constructed and one to enjoy if not to stimulate.

Ralph Hultgren
10th of July 2007